**2021 Winter Research Project Description**

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| **Project title:** | **An investigation of the motivated prejudice behind the “perpetual foreigner syndrome”** |
| **Positions available:** | **2** |
| **Project duration:** | Ideally, the candidate would for available for at least 20 hours per week, over 4-5 week. This is negotiable. |
| **Description:** | Asian faces are consistently considered more foreign than White faces in Australia (Thai et al., 2020). Little work has examined the factors that explain this discrepancy in perceived national identity. One interpretation could be that this discrepancy reflects genuine, non-prejudiced statistical inference. That is, there may statistically be more Asian people of foreign origin than there are White people of foreign origin in Western nations, so it would be sensible to infer that Asian faces are more likely to be foreign in the absence of any other cues to national identity. Recent evidence, however, shows that Asian Australian individuals are still reliably rated as less Australian than White Australian individuals, even when they are depicted as Australian-born and heavily immersed in the Australian culture (Thai et al., 2020). This suggests that presumptions of foreignness may not be entirely driven by automatic, statistical processing. Rather, they may be a manifestation of motivated prejudice towards Asian people. The aims of the research project will be to investigate whether there is a prejudicial component underlying the presumption that Asian people are foreign.  Applicants may choose to be involved in the main research project described above, or a number of related projects also in the area of race relations and person perception. |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | Scholars will gain experience in the entire research process, including research question development, literature review, open science practices, data collection, data analysis, and report writing. Students will also be given the opportunity to be involved in the publication of this research, should the research project yield publishable findings.  Scholars may be asked to produce sections of a research report and/or deliver an oral presentation about their research findings at the end of the project. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is open to applications from students with a background in psychology who are in 3rd-4th year. It is ideal for applicants who have an interest in social psychology, specifically, prejudice, stereotyping, and race relations. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr. Michael Thai |
| **Further info:** | Please contact Dr. Michael Thai if you have any questions about this research project. |